

BQC 93-001

Date: January 14, 1993

To:	Nursing Homes	NH	1
	Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled	FDD	1
	Home Health Agencies	HHA	1
	Personal Care Agencies	PCA	1
	Hospice Agencies	HSPCE	1
	Hospitals	HOSP	1
	Nurse Aide/Home Health Aide Training Program	NA/HHA	1
	End Stage Renal Disease	ESRD	1
	Ambulatory Surgery Centers	ASC	1
	Rural Health Clinics	RHC	1

From: Larry Tainter, Director
Bureau of Quality Compliance

Re: Wisconsin Act 181
Verification of Licensure of Non-Wisconsin Licensed Physicians, Podiatrists or Dentists

The attached memo from the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Board of Nursing, titled "Verification of Licensure of Non-Wisconsin Licensed Physicians, Podiatrists or Dentists," sets forth the Board's recommendations to nurses regarding the provisions of Act 181, which allow a nurse to accept and carry out an order from a physician, podiatrist or dentist who is not licensed in Wisconsin, but is licensed in another state. Providers regulated by BQC were advised of the enactment of this law in BQC memo (92-035), which addressed its impact on applicable state licensing rules, and recommended each provider review this statute and develop its own policies and procedures to implement it.

The purpose of this memo is to transmit and endorse the recommendations of the Board of Nursing regarding verification of out of state licensed physicians' orders. Questions regarding these recommendations may be referred to the Board of Nursing Nurse Consultant, Tom Neumann, R.N., at (608) 267-2357.

Attachment

State of Wisconsin, Department of Regulation and Licensing
Marlene A. Cummings, Secretary
1400 E. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, Wisconsin 53708
608 266-2112

Verification of Licensure of Non-Wisconsin Licensed Physicians, Podiatrists or Dentists

1991 Wisconsin Act 181 amended the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 441, Wisconsin Statutes), to allow a nurse to accept and carry out an order from a physician, podiatrist or dentist who is not licensed in Wisconsin, but who is licensed in another state. The amended law requires, however, that the physician, podiatrist or dentist must examine the patient in the other state and then prepare the order to be carried out in Wisconsin.

It is essential, before any order is carried out, that there be verification of the licensure of the physician, podiatrist or dentist in the other state. As the October 29, 1992 meeting, the Board of Nursing developed recommendations for agencies, employers and nurses to follow when verifying licensure of the physician, podiatrist or dentist in another state. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Verification should be done by the employer so that each individual nurse does not have to do so.
2. Before any order is carried out by the nurse, the verification should be obtained and documented, including how and when the verification was obtained.
3. It should be documented that the patient was examined in the other state by the physician, podiatrist or dentist.
4. For verification related to home care, the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) may be used.

For verification related to other settings, agencies or facilities, the licensing boards for physicians, podiatrists or dentists in other states may be contacted.

5. Professional judgement must be exercised by the nurse in assessing the patient's condition and in determining whether the patient must return to the other state to be seen by a physician, podiatrist or dentist for new orders.

Approved 10/29/92
Board of Nursing